

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to express and reiterate our concern regarding the delayed release of the more than 10,000 remaining partially redacted or entirely withheld documents related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We urge you to release all remaining documents related to President Kennedy's assassination pursuant to and in accordance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, also known as the "JFK Act."

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy was among the greatest tragedies in our nation's history, however, nearly 60 years after that horrific day, the American people are still waiting for the government to fulfill its promise to release the remaining relevant documents. Congress unanimously enacted the JFK Act in 1992 to establish a presumption for immediate disclosure of documents related to the assassination. The purpose of such a law was to restore the public's trust in government and prevent the spread of conspiracy theories bolstered by secrecy. Fostering transparency and facilitating public scrutiny of the remaining records relating to President Kennedy's assassination is crucial.

Since that tragic day, public debate as to the truth of the assassination has persisted. In the intervening years, doubt has been cast on the conclusions of the Warren Commission by experts and impacted individuals, including Mr. Charles N. Shaffer Jr., a former Justice Department prosecutor who served on the Warren Commission,¹ Dr. Cyril Wecht, a renowned forensic pathologist who has closely studied the case,² and President Lyndon B. Johnson, who established

¹ Philip Shenon, *Meet the respectable JFK conspiracy theorists*, WASH. POST (Sept. 19, 2014), https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/meet-the-respectable-jfk-conspiracy-theorists/2014/09/19/b5eb28e0-3deb-11e4-b03f-de718edeb92f_story.html.

² Cyril Wecht, *THE JFK ASSASSINATION DISSECTED: AN ANALYSIS BY FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST CYRIL WECHT* (Exposit Book 2021).

the Warren Commission.³ This incredulity among experts and individuals close to the case has furthered public skepticism regarding the events of that day, with nearly 61 percent of Americans in 2017 believing there to have been a conspiracy in President Kennedy's murder.⁴

Although we commend the Biden Administration for the release of a select number of the remaining documents related to President Kennedy's assassination, we believe it is imperative that the remaining documents be released as soon as possible. We have previously requested a briefing with the appropriate Executive Branch official with knowledge and relevant information of the decision to postpone the release of the remaining records. We write to reiterate that request, and again urge you to reconsider your decision to delay the release of the remaining documents.

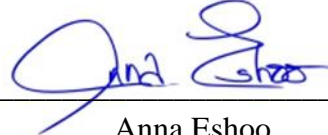
It is our hope that you take this opportunity to exercise the authority vested in you to restore public trust in our government by promoting transparency. We have waited for well over 50 years for the release of these documents, and time is of the essence.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

³ *Johnson Said he Doubted Finding on Assassination*, N.Y. TIMES (April 17, 1994), <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/04/17/us/johnson-said-he-doubted-finding-on-assassination.html>.

⁴ Dante Chinni, *The One Thing All Americans Agree On: JFK Conspiracy*, NBC (Oct. 29, 2017), <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/jfk-assassination-files/one-thing-all-americans-agree-jfk-conspiracy-n815371>.